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**AGC of America**  
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA  
**Quality People. Quality Projects.**



September 13, 2016

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Education and the Workforce Committee  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act**

Dear Chairman Kline:

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) urges you to support H.R. 5587, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. Career and technical education (CTE) programs are vital to helping the construction industry address its current workforce shortage by helping to provide a pipeline for future workers to enter the industry. A September 2016 AGC Workforce Shortage Survey showed that 75 percent of AGC contractors surveyed report the current quality of programs like CTE are “fair” or “poor” while only 14 percent rated them as either “good” or “excellent” and that we need reforms to make these programs more effective.

H.R. 5587 provides these needed reforms through better alignment, better reporting, increased work-based learning, promoting industry recognized credentials and increased federal investment. The bill aligns education with local and regional economic needs through greater flexibility. It also promotes work-based learning programs by providing the flexibility to utilize a multitude of varying arrangements that are currently used across industries, especially the construction industry. The bill takes steps to spur the development and acceptance of industry-recognized credentials, as they are a proven method to distinguish applicants who have the requisite skills for working in the construction industry.

The reauthorization and reforms to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act through H.R. 5587 will help build a strong and skilled workforce, but it must be part of a larger legislative plan for preparing the next generation of skilled construction workers. AGC urges Congress to support H.R. 5587 and other vital workforce training legislation that the construction industry needs today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Shoaf', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey D. Shoaf  
Senior Executive Director, Government Affairs